

Atty. Docket No. CH919980025US2
(590.053)

REMARKS

Applicants and the undersigned are most grateful for the time and effort accorded the instant application by the Examiner. The Office is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections presented in the outstanding Office Action in light of the following remarks.

Claims 1 - 27 were pending in the instant application at the time of the outstanding Office Action. Of these claims, Claims 1, 8, 13, 19, 23, 25 are independent claims; the remaining claims are dependent claims. Claims 1, 8, 13, 19, 23, and 25 have been amended. Claims 5-7 and 16-18 stand objected to as improper multiple dependent claims. These claims have been cancelled. New claims 28-33 have been added to correspond to the subject matter of the cancelled claims 5-7 and 16-18. Applicants intend no change in the scope of the claims by the changes made by this amendment. It should be noted these amendments are not in acquiescence of the Office's position on allowability of the claims, but merely to expedite prosecution.

Claims 1, 2, 8-14, and 19-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1, 2, 10-16, 21-24, 26, 27, and 31-33 of U.S. Patent 6,763,460 in a statutory double patenting rejection. The independent claims have been amended such that they are no longer identical to the claims in U.S. Patent 6,763,640. Withdrawal and reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested.

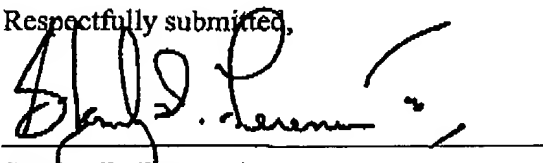
Further, claims 3, 4, and 15 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 3, 4, and 17 of U.S.

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Patent 6,763,460. In light of the statements above, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection is no longer applicable and is thus traversed by Applicant. Withdrawal and reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In summary, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application, including Claims 1 - 33, is presently in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. In the unlikely event the Office does not agree the application is in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully request an interview with the Examiner prior to the next Office Action in this case.

Respectfully submitted,



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